

REMARKS

1. Claims 1-33 are presently pending. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo et al., "Surfin' the World Wide Web in Japanese" (hereinafter "Kondo"), in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,913,196 to Talmor et al. ("Talmor"). The Examiner states in the rejection that Kondo discloses a method for recognizing voice commands for manipulating data on the Internet, and also discloses providing data, receiving voice signals from a user accessing the website, interpreting the voice signals for determining navigational commands, and outputting selected data based on the navigational commands. The Examiner also states that Kondo fails to explicitly establish the identity of the user through the voice signals.

The Examiner then states that this feature is well known in the art, as evidenced by Talmor, which discloses a method for identifying a person's identity over a secured network comprising the step of establishing the identity of the user through at least two authentication algorithms. The Examiner states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the voice verification of Talmor in Kondo's voice browser. The Examiner then recites details from the description of Kondo and uses the details in rejections of Claims 2-6. The Examiner then analogizes Claims 7-12, 13-18, and 19-33 as being similar in scope to Claims 1-6 and states that Claims 7-12, 13-18, and 19-33 are rejected under the same rationale.

2. Applicant traverses the rejections on the grounds that the Examiner has not established a prima facie case of obviousness. To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. M.P.E.P. § 2143.

3. An interview was conducted with Examiner Angela Armstrong by telephone on March 25 and March 27 to discuss whether any of the claims of the application were allowable

in light of the Kondo and Talmor references. During the conversations, Claims 1-33 were discussed, along with their allowability in view of the references. Examiner Armstrong argued that the references depicted all the limitations of the claimed subject matter, and the undersigned argued that the references did not show every limitation. Agreement was not reached during the telephone interviews.

4. Applicant has argued, and the Examiner has not accepted, that the combination of the references is improper. The Examiner argues that Kondo teaches that using speech to access the Web will make browsers more friendly and powerful, and will also make the introduction to the computer and Internet smoother. The Examiner further argues that Talmor teaches speaker identification via voice authentication algorithms for authorized access to a secured computer network system. The Examiner then argues that the references are in the same field of endeavor because both are drawn to voice recognition implementation in a computer network system, and that the references were combined to provide for user voice authentication for access to a voice command navigation system. This is because, the Examiner argues, Kondo teaches speech to access and navigate the Internet and Talmor teaches speaker identification via voice authentication algorithms for authorized access to a secured computer network system.

Applicant believes that the combination of the two references is improper. A person having ordinary skill would not be motivated to combine Kondo's voice command recognition with Talmor's voice authentication system. Prior art must be considered in its entirety, including portions that teach away from the claims. M.P.E.P. 2141.02 at 2100-120. As admitted by the Examiner, Kondo teaches using via voice commands to access the Web, making browsers more friendly and powerful, while Talmor teaches the use of speech recognition for authorized access only to a secured computer network system. The references are inherently contradictory and cannot be combined. Thus, there is insufficient motivation for combining the references, and because the references are contradictory, the combination would not have a reasonable chance of success for all of Claims 1-33.

A rejection cannot be predicated on the mere identification of individual components of claimed limitations; particular findings must be made as the reason the skilled artisan, with no knowledge of the claimed invention, would have selected these particular components for a combination in the manner claimed. In re Kotzab, 55 U.S.P.Q.2d 1313, 1317 (Fed. Cir. 2000). Therefore, the first and second conditions stated in M.P.E.P. § 2143 for establishing a prima facie case of obviousness, that is, a motivation for combining the references and a reasonable chance for success of the combination, have not been met for all of Claims 1-33.

Without repeating all the arguments mentioned above for Claims 1-6, 7-12, and 13-18, traverse is maintained on the Examiner's rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), on the above grounds, and on grounds that even the improper combination does not describe or suggest all the limitations of the claimed invention. These grounds were stated in the Response to Office Action mailed on November 15, 2002. The Examiner repeats some of these grounds in rejecting at least some of Claims 19-33, but the claimed limitations are not found in the reference. For example, the Examiner has cited Kondo, section 3.1 at page 1152 for the limitation of "determining a language from the voice signals," which limitation is used in Claims 4, 10, 16, and 32. The cited passage, however, deals only with Japanese Speech-Aware Multimedia (SAM) and recognizing commands, but with no mention of language recognition. In another example, the Examiner has cited Kondo, Fig. 1, ("ruled heuristics") for the rejection of Claims 5, 11, 17 and 33, stating that Kondo discloses a method utilizing artificial intelligence to interact with the user. The portion of the figure that has a box labeled "rules, heuristics" appears to be an input to a box labeled "grammar preparation," and thus applies to rules of speech and grammar. Passages in section 3.3, "Segmentation, Phonetic String Conversion," on p. 1153, left column, mention heuristics when dealing with the conversion of Japanese speech that contains numbers and fractional numbers. Nothing in these passages distinguishes these as anything but ordinary computer programs with rules and heuristics, such as for grammar or conversion. Nothing in these passages describes or suggests the use of artificial intelligence, such as neural networks or other intelligent systems, as claimed and as described in the specification on page 26, line 10 to page 30, line 23, and on page 82, lines 20-21.

5. Even if the above-mentioned references are improperly combined, the Examiner has not cited all the limitations of at least Claims 21 and 23-33. These claims are generally not similar to Claims 1-6 of the present application, and thus the rejections made against Claims 1-6 do not apply to Claims 20-33. Moreover, the Examiner has not cited art that anticipates or makes obvious the limitations of at least these claims.

Generally, Claims 19-25 concern a method for recognizing voice commands for manipulating data on the Internet. Claim 21 has a limitation requiring that "the voice signal is characterized by statistical parameters," and Claim 23 has a further limitation requiring that "the step of receiving voice signals is accomplished at a first site and the step of comparing is accomplished at a second site." Claim 24 has a limitation requiring steps of "generating a signal indicative of a result of the step of comparing and sending the signal to a processing unit allowing access to the data." Claim 25 has a limitation "wherein the voice signal from a person is a password and the data to which access is allowed depends on the password." These limitations are not the same as in Claims 1-6. The Examiner has not cited art that describes at least these limitations from Claims 21 and 23-25. Therefore, the Examiner has not made out a *prima facie* case of anticipation or obviousness against at least Claims 20, 21, and 23-25.

Claims 26-29 claim a system for accessing and navigating data on the Internet using voice signals. The Examiner has not cited art anticipating or making obvious the components of the system, which include: a transducer; a terminal further comprising a receiver, an analog front end and a codec; a processor; and an interface between the terminal and the processor, with additional limitations regarding the operation of the transducer and the system. Claim 27 contains additional limitations on the transducer, "wherein the transducer is selected from the group consisting of a microphone, an optical transducer, and a radio-frequency transducer." Claim 28 has additional limitations regarding the interface, "wherein the interface is selected from the group consisting of an interface circuit, and a transmitter for transmitting digitized sound data and a terminal for receiving the digitized sound data." Claim 29 further defines the interface as comprising a digital signal processor, a transmitter, a terminal unit, and an interface circuit, with further limitations on the operation of the components. These limitations are not the

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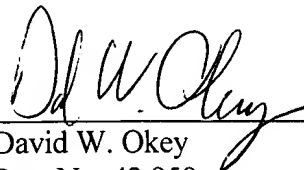
same as in Claims 1-6. The Examiner has not cited art that describes or suggests any of the limitations of Claims 26-29.

Dependent Claims 30-33 claim a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for recognizing voices and voice commands for accessing and manipulating data on the Internet. The limitations of the claims include code segments for receiving and digitizing voice signals from a user, and a code segment for analyzing the voice signals and determining statistical parameters indicative of the voice and voice commands from the user. The computer program also comprises a code segment for identifying and storing statistical parameters indicative of a voice signal from a user, a code segment that interprets voice signals and voice commands of the user for determining an identity of the user, and a code segment for navigating on the Internet. The Examiner has not cited art that describes or suggests these limitations.

As mentioned above, none of these limitations are the same as in Claims 1-6 or described or suggested in the art cited by the Examiner. Therefore, the Examiner has not made out a prima facie case of obviousness against at least Claims 21 and 23-39. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of at least these Claims, and to advance at least these claims to allowance.

6. Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections, and advance the claims to allowance. If the Examiner would like to discuss the response, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at 312-321-4711.

Respectfully submitted,



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